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# Statistical Bulletin

## Enrolments at grant-aided schools 2014/15:

### Basic statistics

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[http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/  
facts-and-figures-new.htm](http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/facts-and-figures-new.htm)

The purpose of this statistical release is to present basic provisional enrolment figures for schools and for children in funded pre-school education for 2014/15.

**Key points:**

- There are 165,548 pupils in primary schools (years 1-7), and this continues to increase even though there are fewer primary schools.
- In total 142,547 pupils are enrolled in post-primary schools, showing a decline for the fourth year in a row. This decrease is witnessed in enrolments to non-grammar schools, but grammar school enrolments remain stable. Enrolments of pupils in sixth form, however, continue to rise.
- There has been a substantial increase in the proportion of post-primary schools pupils that are entitled to free school meals from 19% to 26% among post-primary pupils. This is likely to be as a result of extension of the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion to post-primary pupils.



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## Introduction

The data in the following bulletin are taken from the school enrolments census, which was conducted in October 2014. Data collected through the school census exercise are used to inform Departmental policy development, implementation and evaluation.

This first release of the basic statistics contains information which is used in the process to allocate funding to schools. These figures are provisional and subject to change. A further statistical release, containing a more detailed set of tables based on finalised and validated data, will be published in February 2015.

## Section 1: Schools in Northern Ireland

- The numbers of **schools** in Northern Ireland continues to decrease, from 1,219 in 2010 to 1,180 in 2014 (Table 1).
  - In October 2014, there were 836 **primary schools** (including preparatory departments), a decrease of 27 since October 2010.
  - The number of **post-primary schools** was 208, compared to 217 in 2010. This decrease is accounted for by a drop in the number of non-grammar schools (Table 1).
- However, the number of **voluntary and private pre-school centres** continues to increase, rising from 380 in 2010/11 to 401 this year (Table 1).

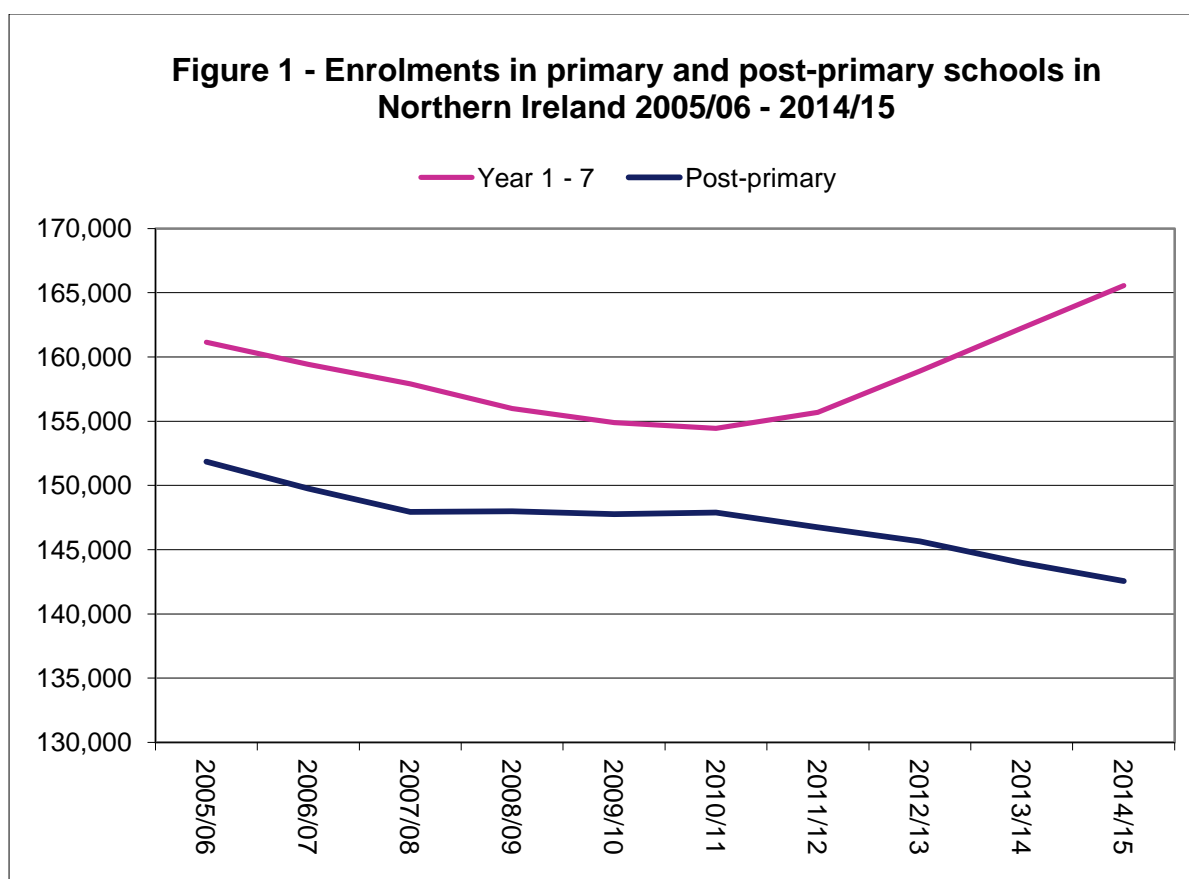
**Table 1: Number of Schools and Pre-school Education Centres by Management Type**

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
<b>VOLUNTARY and PRIVATE</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>401</b>
<b>PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES<sup>1</sup></b>					
<b>NURSERY SCHOOLS</b>					
Controlled	65	65	65	64	64
Catholic Maintained	33	32	32	32	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>					
Controlled	383	378	374	370	370
Catholic Maintained	396	392	387	384	381
Other Maintained	25	27	29	29	29
Controlled Integrated	19	19	19	19	19
Grant Maintained Integrated	23	23	23	23	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>822</b>
Grammar school preparatory depts.	17	15	15	14	14
<b>Total primary schools and preparatory depts.</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>836</b>
<b>POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>					
<b>Secondary (non grammar) schools</b>					
Controlled	57	56	55	53	51
Catholic Maintained	71	71	71	68	68
Other Maintained	1	1	1	1	1
Controlled Integrated	5	5	5	5	5
Grant Maintained Integrated	15	15	15	15	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Grammar schools</b>					
Controlled	17	17	17	17	18
Voluntary	29	29	29	29	29
Under Catholic management	22	22	22	22	21
Under other management	22	22	22	22	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Total Post Primary schools</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>SPECIAL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>Total</b>	41	41	40	40
<b>HOSPITAL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>Total</b>	2	2	1	1
<b>INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS</b>	<b>Total</b>	15	15	15	15
<b>ALL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,187</b>
<b>ALL SCHOOLS AND</b>					
<b>PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>1,581</b>

<sup>1</sup> Voluntary and private centres funded under the Pre-school Education Expansion Programme,

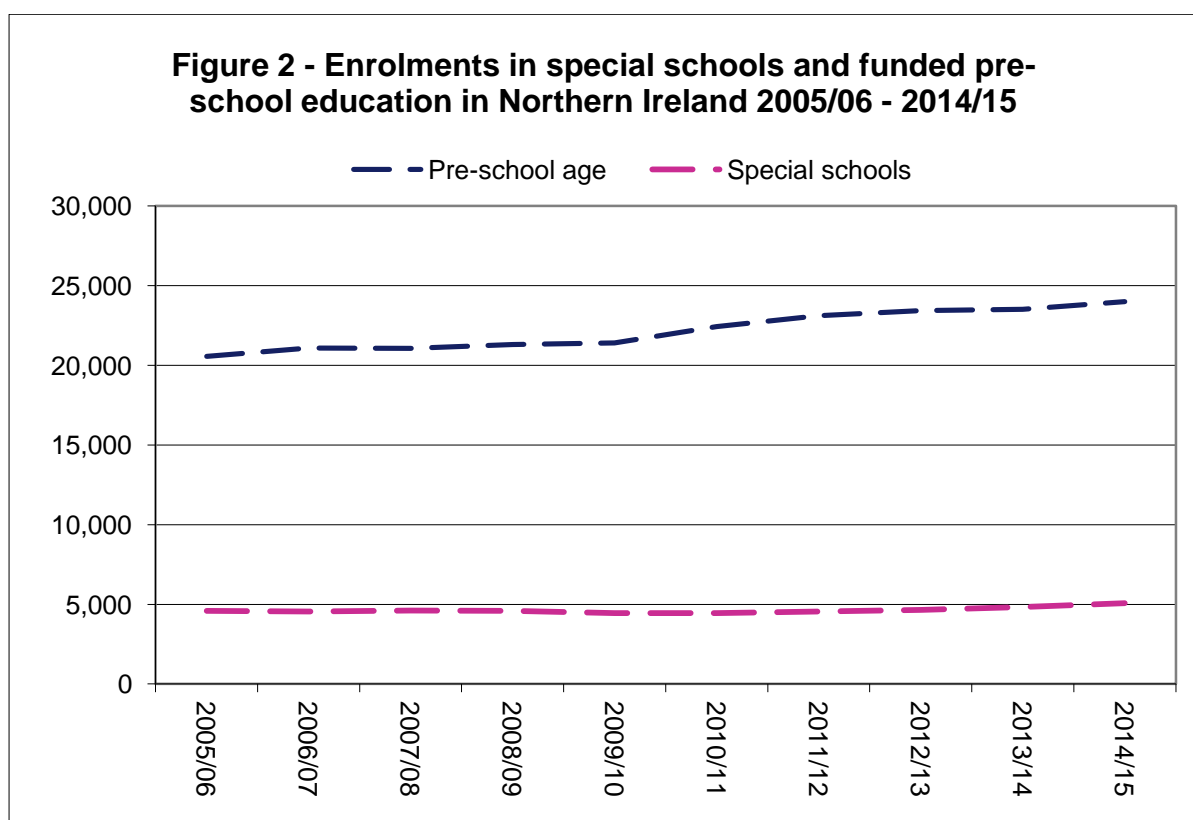
## Section 2: Enrolments in schools in Northern Ireland

- The total number of pupils in **all** schools in October 2014 was 337,908. This has steadily increased over the last four years (Table 2).
- Much of this increase is attributable to the rise in the number of pupils in compulsory **primary** school education (Figure 1). In October 2014 the total number of year 1-7 pupils was 165,548 (Table 2). This has risen by almost 10,000 pupils compared to three years ago even though there are now 18 fewer primary schools. There are almost 3,300 more year 1-7 pupils compared with last year. The increase observed is in line with the rise in the number of 4-10 year olds in NISRA's population estimates over the last three years<sup>1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/NI\\_sya\(1961\\_2013\).xls](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/NI_sya(1961_2013).xls)

- By contrast, enrolments in **post-primary** schools continue to decline. The number of pupils in post-primary schools was 142,547, and this has dropped by more than 5,000 pupils in the last four years (Figure 1). Again this mirrors the decrease seen in NISRA's population estimates in the same period. This trend only exists in secondary (non-grammar) schools; grammar school enrolments have remained stable in recent years (Table 2).
- However, this overall decline in post primary pupils masks a continual increase in the number of **post Year 12 pupils**. Enrolments have risen by almost 2,000 in the last four years (29,288 in 2010/11 to 31,265 in 2014/15).
- The number of children in funded **pre-school education**, that is reception classes, nursery schools and units, or voluntary and private pre-school centres, was 23,995. This has steadily increased by around 1,500 pupils in the last four years, and by almost 500 pupils in the last year alone. Much of this increase is attributable to the rise in pupils in voluntary and private pre-school education centres and nursery classes within primary schools.
- **Special school** enrolments have also gradually increased, rising by around 600 pupils in the last four years to 5,063 in 2014/15.



**Table 2: Number of Pupils in Schools and Children in Funded Pre-school Education by Type of Establishment attended**

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
<b>VOLUNTARY and PRIVATE PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>7,599</b>	<b>8,149</b>	<b>8,410</b>	<b>8,360</b>	<b>8,621</b>
<b>NURSERY SCHOOLS</b>					
Full-time	4,033	3,981	3,986	3,983	4,000
Part-time	1,873	1,930	1,924	1,869	1,882
<b>Total nursery school pupils</b>	<b>5,906</b>	<b>5,911</b>	<b>5,910</b>	<b>5,852</b>	<b>5,882</b>
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS and PREPARATORY DEPARTMENTS</b>					
<b>Nursery class pupils</b>					
Full-time	4,786	5,106	5,070	5,110	5,183
Part-time	3,649	3,502	3,633	3,842	3,981
<b>Total nursery class pupils<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>8,435</b>	<b>8,608</b>	<b>8,703</b>	<b>8,952</b>	<b>9,164</b>
Primary: reception	491	444	417	343	328
Grammar preparatory: reception <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total reception pupils</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>328</b>
Primary schools (year 1 - 7)	152,333	153,740	157,082	160,453	163,735
Grammar school preparatory depts. (year 1 - 7)	2,119	1,954	1,832	1,800	1,813
<b>Total year 1 - 7 pupils</b>	<b>154,452</b>	<b>155,694</b>	<b>158,914</b>	<b>162,253</b>	<b>165,548</b>
<b>Total primary pupils</b>	<b>163,378</b>	<b>164,746</b>	<b>168,034</b>	<b>171,548</b>	<b>175,040</b>
<b>POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>					
Secondary (non grammar) schools	85,769	84,193	83,059	81,339	79,836
Grammar schools	62,133	62,554	62,599	62,634	62,711
<b>Total post primary pupils</b>	<b>147,902</b>	<b>146,747</b>	<b>145,658</b>	<b>143,973</b>	<b>142,547</b>
<b>SPECIAL SCHOOLS<sup>2</sup> Total</b>	<b>4,458</b>	<b>4,549</b>	<b>4,653</b>	<b>4,832</b>	<b>5,063</b>
<b>HOSPITAL SCHOOLS Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS Total</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>643</b>
<b>ALL SCHOOLS Total</b>	<b>322,548</b>	<b>322,891</b>	<b>325,020</b>	<b>326,965</b>	<b>329,287</b>
<b>ALL SCHOOLS AND PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES</b>	<b>330,147</b>	<b>331,040</b>	<b>333,430</b>	<b>335,325</b>	<b>337,908</b>

1. Voluntary and private centres funded under the Pre-school Education Expansion Programme, which began in 1998/99.

2. Pupils placed in special schools or units on a temporary basis were counted at their main school from 2009/10 onwards.

3. Nursery and reception pupils who are enrolled in preparatory departments of grammar schools have not been included as they are not funded by the Department.

### Section 3: Pupils entitled to free school meals<sup>2</sup>

- Based on provisional data, the percentage of children in schools entitled to **free school meals** has risen from 26% last year to 30% this year (Table 3).
- This main reason for this increase is the sharp rise in **post-primary pupils** that are free school meal entitled, increasing from 19% to 26%. The proportion of non-grammar pupils that are free school meals entitled has risen by ten percentage points to 37% this year. Entitlement increases by five percentage points to 12% among grammar school pupils (Table 3).
- This increase is likely to relate to the extension of the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion to post-primary pupils in September 2014<sup>3</sup>. By comparison, when entitlement was extended for primary school pupils in 2009/10 and 2010/11, the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals increased from 19% (in 2009/10) to 27% (in 2011/12).

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/support-and-development-2/5-schools\\_meals/school-milk-and-meals.htm](http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/support-and-development-2/5-schools_meals/school-milk-and-meals.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Eligibility under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion was introduced on a phased basis with Nursery, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils eligible from September 2010 and Key Stage 2 pupils eligible from September 2011. It was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.



**Table 3: Percentage of Children Entitled to Free School Meals<sup>1, 4, 5</sup> by Type of Establishment attended**

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
<b>VOLUNTARY and PRIVATE PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES<sup>1, 2</sup></b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>NURSERY SCHOOLS<sup>1</sup></b>					
Full-time	39%	43%	45%	45%	48%
Part-time	9%	9%	8%	9%	11%
<b>All nursery schools</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>					
<b>Nursery class pupils<sup>1, 4</sup></b>					
Full-time	34%	36%	38%	43%	42%
Part-time	10%	11%	12%	11%	12%
<b>Total nursery class pupils<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>29%</b>
Primary: reception	12%	13%	12%	17%	18%
Grammar preparatory: reception <sup>6</sup>	-	-	-	-	0%
<b>Total reception pupils</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Primary schools (year 1 - 7)	22%	27%	30%	31%	32%
Grammar school preparatory depts. (year 1 - 7)	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Total year 1 - 7 pupils</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Total primary pupils</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>					
Secondary (non grammar) schools	26%	27%	28%	27%	37%
Grammar schools	7%	7%	7%	7%	12%
<b>TOTAL POST PRIMARY PUPILS</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>SPECIAL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>ALL SCHOOLS<sup>3</sup> Total</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS AND PRE-EDUCATION CENTRES</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>29%</b>

1. For pupils and children in the nursery sector and in voluntary and private pre-school centres, where free school meal entitlement data is not appropriate, the number of pupils with (a) parent(s) in receipt of Job Seeker's allowance or Income Support is used instead of free school meal entitlement.

2. Voluntary and private centres funded under the Pre-school Education Expansion Programme, which began in 1998/99.

3. Free school meal entitlement data is not collected for pupils at hospital schools. Figures for special schools and independent schools are not validated.

4. Eligibility under the Working Tax Credit free school meal criterion was introduced on a phased basis with Nursery, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils eligible from September 2010 and Key Stage 2 pupils eligible from September 2011. It was extended to post-primary pupils from September 2014.

5. These figures may be subject to minor revision once the Education and Library Boards' auditing process is completed.

6. Nursery and reception pupils who are enrolled in preparatory departments of grammar schools have not been included as they are not funded by the Department.

## Notes for readers

### **National Statistics**

1. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

2. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service on 0845 601 3034  
minicom: 01633 812399

E-mail: [info@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:info@statistics.gov.uk)

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Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG

3. You can also find National Statistics on the Internet: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

### **School Census**

4. The statistics in this release have been derived from the annual School Census; details about the survey may be found at [http://www.deni.gov.uk/census\\_description\\_for\\_web\\_14\\_15\\_r1.docx](http://www.deni.gov.uk/census_description_for_web_14_15_r1.docx). For voluntary and private pre-school centres, and nursery schools, the census consists of a paper return comprising a number of tables; for post-primary, primary and special schools, it consists of a return comprising individual pupil records, made by Electronic Data Interchange.
5. The 2014/15 figures in this statistical release are based on information as at 10 October 2014. They may be subject to minor revision and these will be notified in accordance with our revisions policy. This can be accessed at [http://www.deni.gov.uk/de\\_statement\\_on\\_statistical\\_revisions-2.doc](http://www.deni.gov.uk/de_statement_on_statistical_revisions-2.doc). A further statistical release, containing a more detailed set of tables, will be published in February 2015.

6. The figures for nursery *classes* relate to approved nursery classes in primary schools. The figures for reception refer to pupils who were below compulsory school age at 1st July 2014, who were admitted to a reception class or group in primary school following their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Schools may admit reception pupils throughout the year, but only those who have been admitted by 31st October are counted in the school census.
7. Further statistics relating to school numbers and enrolments can be found on the DE website ([www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk)) under the Facts and Figures section.

The DE website presents figures taken from the school census, summarised at regional, Education and Library Board and school level. Statistics on pupil attendance, pupil: teacher ratios, school leaver destinations and qualifications may also be accessed via the website.

8. Information on enrolments collected via the school census process are used to inform DE policy and procedures (particularly School Funding), as well as to inform Education and Library Boards (ELBs) of detailed information useful to them in their auditing processes.

### Further enquiries

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Special analyses of the school census can be undertaken on request.

**Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at the same address, telephone (028) 9127 9207 / fax (028) 9127 9271.**

Feedback on this publication can be provided directly to Paul Matthews (contact details above) or via the feedback questionnaire on our website.

<http://www.deni.gov.uk/feedback.htm>